

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2007-33
August 27, 2007

SUBJECT: *Sirex noctilio* Fabricius (Sirex woodwasp) in Erie County, Pennsylvania

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On August 6, 2007, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of four female *Sirex noctilio* woodwasps in Erie County, Pennsylvania. These woodwasps were collected from two separate traps placed among Scotch pine trees on State game lands as part of cooperative State and Federal *S. noctilio* survey efforts. To date, *Sirex noctilio* has also been detected in four Pennsylvania counties, one Michigan county, 28 New York counties, and 21 counties in Ontario Province, Canada.

The U.S. Forest Service is cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) to conduct *S. noctilio* surveys in seven northwestern Pennsylvania counties. Within these counties, *S. noctilio* trap trees and traps have been deployed at 14 sites. An additional 600 traps were placed throughout central Pennsylvania as part of a cooperative survey effort involving APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and PA DCNR. The survey area in Pennsylvania is part of a multi-state detection and delimiting survey that is ongoing in high risk areas throughout the United States.

S. noctilio is an exotic species of wood-boring wasp capable of causing significant mortality in healthy species of pine trees. In other countries affected by *S. noctilio*, biological and cultural control programs have been developed to mitigate the impact of this forest pest. PPQ's Center for Plant Health, Science, and Technology (CPHST) is presently assessing the feasibility of implementing a biological control program for *S. noctilio* in the United States. APHIS is currently considering its regulatory options to address *S. noctilio*.

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